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INTRODUCTION: Little that is new has been added either to Soviet or to non-Soviet comment on the atomic bomb. The post-announcement themes have now been worked into the fabric of Soviet propaganda, however, so that they appear in any of the other contexts in which peace is discussed.

"BLACKMAIL": Perhaps the commonest type of Soviet reference to the bomb continues to be the assertion that the West can no longer hope to "blackmail" the democratic countries by "intimidating" them with the bomb. For example, in a description of the celebration of International Peace Day in the USSR, the Soviet poet Leonidze is quoted as saying: "We are being intimidated by the atom bomb, but we have had it for a long time."

RETALIATION: The retaliation theme, dramatically introduced on 2 October by Ehrenburg, also reappears. The Georgian scientist Muskhelishvili is said to have declared: "We do not intend to use atomic energy for military purposes, but we do to those who will be the first to try to do this."

BAN THE BOMB: In the U.N. context there is still no specific discussion of the concrete points at issue, but only a stereotyped repetition of the plea to prohibit the bomb, with a continued insistence that it is the USSR that wants "strict international control."

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For instance, Marinin says:

"The second Soviet proposal calls upon the General Assembly to declare the use of the atomic weapon and other means of mass destruction to be in direct contradiction to the conscience and honor of nations, and incompatible with membership in the U.N. organization. It is common knowledge that the Soviet Union has long been in possession of the atomic weapon, but ever since 1946 it has been consistently striving to have the atomic weapon banned and to establish strict international control to enforce this ban."
(in English to the United Kingdom, 3 October)

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